

and sent a letter to Congress asking us to fully fund the second submarine it wanted to cut just last February. Thankfully, the House had already acted responsibly to do just that earlier this year.

Mr. Speaker, I want to salute Admiral Michael Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations, who foot-stomped the second submarine as the Navy's top unfunded priority this year and also wrote a powerful support letter to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD that support letter.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,
CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2020.

Hon. JOE COURTNEY,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, Committee on Armed Services, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to follow up on our phone call of November 12, 2020. As I detailed in the Navy's February 19, 2020 Unfunded Priorities List, the second Virginia Class Submarine in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 remains my top unfunded priority. The FY 2021 shipbuilding budget reflected a balance between requirements, capability, affordability, and the need to sustain the industrial base while maintaining a reasonable degree of risk.

Increased funding to enable the Navy to procure a second Virginia Class Submarine in FY 2021, the 10th under the current contract of the Block V submarine build is critical for a number of important reasons: it supports stability within the industrial base and the workload ramp up for COLUMBIA Class construction and helps mitigate the SSN trough in the late 2020s. Additionally, recent DoD studies highlighted the need to increase the number of submarines to counter the threat.

The Navy supports the President's FY 2021 budget request and will consider the potential for restoring the submarine in future budget submissions, ensuring the proper balance of resources between investing in tomorrow's fleet and sustaining today's fleet. However, if Congress has the opportunity to add one ship to the FY 2021 budget, my recommendation would be an attack submarine. Thank you for your continued support for the United States Navy and its submarine force. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

M.M. GILDAY,
Admiral, U.S. Navy.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Navy League and the AFL-CIO metal trades unions, whose members do such amazing work at our Nation's shipyards, also provided critical advocacy throughout this fight.

Seapower's professional staff Phil MacNaughton, Dave Sienicki, Kelly Goggin, and Navy fellow Lieutenant Commander Cam Massey rose to the challenge and did the hard work to make this plus-up fit within the overall bill.

In my 14 years on Seapower, this act of bipartisan congressional independence and leadership to pass a shipbuilding plan that faithfully addresses our Navy's needs stands out as its finest hour.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the NDAA today.

EN MASSE VOTING BY MAIL IS ILLEGAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, this is my fifth speech in a series on voter fraud, election theft, and the Presidential election.

For emphasis, Congress is the judge, jury, and final arbiter of the 2020 Presidential election contest. Further, America's election system is plagued by systemic flaws that promote voter fraud and election theft.

Joe Biden exploited one such flaw when he brazenly promised more than 10 million illegal aliens that he will give them amnesty and citizenship if they help elect Joe Biden President.

The Constitution's Election Clause, Article I, Section 4, is very clear. Congress has absolute authority over the "times, places, and manner of holding elections" for Federal offices.

Pursuant to the Election Clause, and title 2, United States Code, section 7, Congress set November 3 as the 2020 "day for the election."

For emphasis, Congress set a "day for the election" on which citizens vote. Congress did not set an election week, an election month, or an election season during which citizens can cast votes. Also, pursuant to the Election Clause, Congress created limited exceptions to its "vote within a 24-hour window" mandate, to wit:

Alternative voting means for persons with disabilities;

Overseas persons may vote by absentee ballot;

Persons to be absent from their voting location or State on election day may vote by absentee ballot.

Any voting schemes that allow voting outside of congressionally mandated times and means are illegal under the Constitution and Federal statute.

Congress' reasons for limiting voting to one 24-hour period are described by the 2005 bipartisan Commission on Federal Election Reform, co-chaired by Democrat President Jimmy Carter and former Republican White House Chief of Staff and Secretary of State James Baker. They strongly cautioned against overly broad absentee ballot and vote-by-mail schemes because they "increase the risk of fraud."

The bipartisan commission found that absentee voting has been one of the major sources of fraud in American elections and that vote by mail "is vulnerable to abuse in several ways: Blank ballots mailed to the wrong address or to large residential buildings might get intercepted. Citizens who vote at home, at nursing homes, at the workplace, or in church are more susceptible to pressure, overt and subtle, or to intimidation. Vote-buying schemes are far more difficult to detect when citizens vote by mail."

Mr. Speaker, Congress passed laws to prevent voter fraud and election theft by establishing, with minor exceptions,

a 24-hour window in which to vote. In contrast, socialist Democrats use bureaucratic allies or engaged in rigged lawsuits involving conspiratorial parties and inattentive judges to obtain sham settlement agreements that blatantly violate the Constitution and Federal law to promote voter fraud and election theft with the singular goal of stealing the United States Presidency.

In particular, all en masse vote-by-mail schemes promote voter fraud and election theft and are illegal because they violate Congress' election procedures and 24-hour voting mandate.

As such, all votes cast pursuant to these vote-by-mail schemes are illegal, void, and should not be counted.

Mr. Speaker, the evidence is overwhelming, compelling, and irrefutable. If only lawful votes cast by eligible American citizens are counted, President Trump won the electoral college and a second term as President. Congress can either support illegal voting, voter fraud, and election theft or not.

Because I believe in the rule of law and our Republic, it is my duty as a Member of Congress to, on January 6, object to and vote to reject the electoral college submissions of all States whose election systems are so badly flawed as to render their vote submissions unreliable, untrustworthy, and unworthy of acceptance.

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what I intend to do.

RECOGNIZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BRIAN JOHNSON, FOUNDER OF WARRIORNOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CROW) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Brian Johnson of Aurora, Colorado, founder of the nonprofit organization, WarriorNOW. Brian is an Army veteran who served in Iraq and personally grappled with suicide after leaving the service.

He founded the nonprofit organization, WarriorNOW, to help veterans get through the same struggles that he faced after coming home. His approach to combating veteran suicide is to connect at-risk veterans with peer mentors. Brian has developed a mentor certification program to ensure that every veteran receives quality mentorship and to ensure that the mentors are supported as well.

In the wake of COVID-19, Brian saw how the pandemic led to worsening PTSD anxiety, depression, and substance abuse throughout the entire veteran community. As a result, he created Daniel's Room, a virtual nightly check-in that began with Daniel, a veteran who Brian was working with who was struggling with substance abuse.

Thus far, WarriorNOW has served over 800 veterans in Daniel's Room.

I would like to thank Brian Johnson and his organization, WarriorNOW, for